

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 768 - HB 835

March 2, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the Civil Justice Reform Commission to study and recommend possible reforms to the civil litigation process. The Commission will be comprised of 12 members, of which the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall each appoint three members.

The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide assistance when requested. The Commission will submit a report to the Civil Justice Committee of the House of Representatives, the Senate Judiciary Committee of the Senate, the Governor, and the Supreme Court no later than January 2016. Members will serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement for travel expenses.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$4,500

Other Fiscal Impact – If a member of the General Assembly is appointed to the Commission, the member will receive \$198 per diem for each meeting. The Commission must meet at least three times a year. One member of the General Assembly, if appointed, would be compensated \$600 each year in addition to any travel reimbursement.

Assumptions:

- It is assumed that there will be four members of the commission from each grand division. Therefore, each member of the commission will have to travel at least twice as the commission must meet at least once in each grand division.
- It is assumed that the eight members from the eastern and western grand divisions will each make a trip to the middle grand division which will be approximately 297 miles roundtrip and one trip across the state, approximately 594 miles roundtrip. Each member will travel approximately 891 miles. The travel reimbursement rate is \$0.47 per mile. The cost for the members of the east and west grand divisions will be \$3,350 (8 members x 891 miles x \$0.47).
- It is assumed that the four members from the middle grand division will take two trips each approximately 297 miles roundtrip for a total mileage of 594 miles (297 miles x 2 trips). The cost for the members of the middle grand division will be \$1,117 (4 members x 594 miles x \$0.47).

- The total cost will be \$4,467 (\$3,350 + \$1,117).
- The bill does not require or suggest members of the General Assembly be appointed to the commission. However, it contemplates that members could be appointed. The bill states, “Members of the general assembly shall be compensated in accordance with the provisions of § 3-1-106.”
- If a member of the General Assembly is appointed to the Commission, the member will receive \$198 per diem for each meeting. The Commission must meet at least three times a year. One member of the General Assembly would be compensated \$594 each year (3 meetings x \$198 per diem) in addition to any travel reimbursement.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts reports that it can provide assistance to the Commission within existing resources.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey L. Spalding", written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

/trm